

CLAIMS

1. A method for inspecting a tubular comprising the steps of
 - a) contacting the tubular with a coupling material;
 - b) transmitting an acoustic signal;
 - c) receiving a returned acoustic signal; and
 - d) releasing the contact of the coupling material with the tubular.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the acoustic signal is an ultrasonic signal.
3. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tubular is coiled tubing.
4. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coupling material comprises an elastomeric element.
5. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein step a through d are repeated along a length of coiled tubing.
6. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tubular is coiled tubing and steps a through d are repeated as the coiled tubing is being reeled on or unreeled from a coiled tubing reel.
7. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein an algorithm is used to confirm a returned acoustic signal is received.
8. A method for inspecting a tubular comprising the steps of

contacting the tubular with a coupling material
transmitting an acoustic signal
receiving an acoustic returned signal; and
selectively increasing or decreasing the contact pressure of the coupling material
on the tubular based on the received signal.

9. The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the acoustic signal is an ultrasonic signal.
10. The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the tubular is coiled tubing.
11. The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the coupling material comprises an elastomeric element.
12. The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the selectively increasing the contact pressure is achieved by compressing the elastomeric element.
13. The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the selectively decreasing the contact pressure is achieved by decreasing hydraulic pressure upon the elastomeric element.
14. The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the tubular is coiled tubing and the coupling material is disposed in a stripper element deployed about the coiled tubing.
15. The method of claim 8, further comprising comparing the returned signal to an expected signal, wherein the selectively increasing or decreasing the contact

pressure is performed based on the comparison of the returned signal to the expected signal.

16. The method of 8, further comprising contacting, transmitting, receiving and selectively increasing or decreasing as the coiled tubing is being run in or pulled out of a borehole.
17. An apparatus for use in inspecting a tubular comprising:
 - a housing comprising a coupling material having an axial bore through which a coiled tubing may be passed;
 - an acoustic transducer;
 - an activation cavity;
 - a port; and
 - a solenoid activated hydraulic valve operational to permit or restrict fluid flow in the activation cavity,
 - wherein the hydraulic valve is operational in response to a signal received by the acoustic transducer.
18. An apparatus as claimed in claim 17 wherein increasing fluid in the activation chamber in response to a signal received by the acoustic transducer compresses the coupling material to contact the coiled tubing.
19. An apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the hydraulic valve may be opened and closed at a high rate of speed.
20. An apparatus as claimed in claim 17 wherein the hydraulic valve is operational in response to a signal returned from the coiled tubing and received by the acoustic transducer.